

which not only benefits Kern County, but California and the United States.

It is time for Congress to take decisive action to help ensure that Americans have reliable and affordable renewable electricity. A long-term extension of the PTC would help ensure that we can maximize the potential of our American renewable energy resources, such as wind, and create thousands of new, skilled jobs, both in manufacturing and engineering in this country.

VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to join political leaders of Northern Ireland in condemning the recent murders of two British soldiers and a British police officer in Northern Ireland.

Two dissonant republican groups, the Continuity I.R.A. and the Real I.R.A., have claimed responsibility for the attacks. The first, on a Saturday evening, occurred when two British soldiers guarding a base outside of Antrim were gunned down. Two pizza delivery workers were also tragically injured in the attack. The second attack came on a recent Monday when gunmen shot a member of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on duty near Belfast.

This small group of political dissidents is not representative of the overall peace and unity that so many have worked so hard for since the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998. They should not be allowed to return us to the days of the Troubles.

I call on anyone with information on those who perpetrated these attacks to come forward so that justice can be served. Foolish attacks such as these will not put a stop to the peace process that has been gaining momentum over the last ten years in Northern Ireland.

With the news that three political dissidents were arrested this past weekend, I hope all can work towards bringing justice to these senseless murders. The arrests stirred riots by those supportive of the individuals being prosecuted. No matter what their political allegiance, these rioters should allow the police to do what is necessary to charge those that committed these crimes.

Since the power-sharing government was reinstated in May 2007, the political process has taken great strides forward. The people of Northern Ireland must pull together and ensure that the cowards who committed these crimes aren't successful in allowing their wrongs to be a political statement. After years of aggression, peace has clearly prevailed over violence in Northern Ireland and these heinous attacks will not change that.

I stand in solidarity with those who silently protested these murders last Wednesday in Belfast. These thousands of protesters across the province demonstrate that no amount of senseless violence will fracture the unity of the people in the North of Ireland.

Furthermore, it is important that violence not beget violence. Retaliation by those in the Protestant community will only exacerbate this disgraceful spell of terrorism. Peace will ultimately prevail in Northern Ireland.

With the mutual condemnation of these attacks from both sides of the political spectrum, I am hopeful that Martin McGuinness and Peter Robinson will take the lead in reinforcing their commitment to peace in the province.

Events like these recent attacks represent the past in the North of Ireland. We must be focused on developing the economy in the North of Ireland, educating children, and training workers—not reverting to the bloody violence of the past.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in denouncing this recent disturbing and senseless violence in Northern Ireland. With all of the progress made since the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, the people of Northern Ireland will only accept peace as the answer. We must not allow these murderers to be successful in disrupting that goal.

HUNTINGTON BEACH 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Huntington Beach on its one hundredth anniversary. One of the most beautiful, comfortable, successful, clean, and vibrant cities of America has transformed itself from a tiny oil-producing and cow-grazing piece of land, into the vibrant metropolis it is today. The home to nearly 200,000 people, Huntington Beach, CA has become a great example of what cities across America should strive to be.

Anybody who has ever strolled along the boardwalk, played volleyball in the sand, surfed the waves, trekked out over the pier and watched the sun set know that they are experiencing something special. But leisure is not the only thing valued in Surf City, USA. The city has established a commitment to education with 35 elementary schools, five high schools, as well as two community colleges within the city's limits. The people of Huntington Beach are also very hard workers who have labored to contribute a great deal to their city, state, country, and world. The city plays host to a diverse range of industry, from low-tech to high-tech aerospace, among them The Boeing Company. The city is also home to part of the upper stage of the Saturn V rocket, which was engineered and built by Douglas Aircraft (later McDonnell Douglas), which took the first American flights to the moon.

I must point out another aspect to this city that is near and dear to my heart, as the Chairman of the unofficial, yet powerful, House Surfers Caucus. Visit Huntington Beach, and within a short distance of each other, you will find the International Surfing Museum, the Surfing Hall of Fame, the Surfing Walk of Fame, Quicksilver, and my personal favorite, Jack's Surfboards. Every year, thousands gather on its beaches for the yearly U.S. Open of Surfing Contest. Although I'm not a competitor, it does not prevent me from getting up early in the morning, whenever I can, to join other surfers in the area, beyond the breakline, and hopefully catch a wave or two. Surfing adds a unique and important flavor to the local culture, and Huntington Beach

has indeed earned its designation as Surf City, USA.

Yes, Huntington Beach has much to be proud of. The city has so much to offer that people from every corner of the world have traveled to visit or settle in this beautiful city. And who can blame them? Huntington Beach boasts one of the most beautiful coastlines in the country, amazing weather, and friendly and innovative people. Several times, the FBI has cited the city as being one of the safest communities in the United States.

Huntington Beach continues its quest for offering a great quality of life and advocating the advancement of freedom, fun, and human progress. Establishments such as Central Park, the Huntington Harbour, the Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve, among others, are a testimony to this dedication. As this great city, Surf City, USA, celebrates its centennial, let us look to its example and work to emulate its success. I congratulate Huntington Beach on its centennial. I'm sure the next hundred will be just as grand.

FAREWELL, BEST WISHES, AND THANKS TO AMY SCHICK

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee bid farewell earlier this week to Amy Schick who has served as the Subcommittee's Congressional Fellow over the past year. Ms. Schick returned to the Office of Occupant Protection and Impaired Driving at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, where she will have her next assignment as part of the Presidential Management Fellow program.

The Transportation Subcommittee was fortunate to have Amy as a part of the Subcommittee team. She did a superb job researching a variety of transportation issues; preparing hearing and briefing materials; and, managing the thousands of project requests that were submitted to the Subcommittee during the fiscal year 2009 appropriations process. In addition, Amy had lead staff responsibility for oversight of the budgets of the Surface Transportation Board and the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

Amy's organizational skills and unwavering positive attitude set a high standard for the Subcommittee. Her outstanding commitment to public service was evident not only in how she performed her duties on the Subcommittee but also through her dedication and brave service in the United States Army Reserves.

I am profoundly grateful for Amy's service to the Subcommittee over the past twelve months and I am confident that she will go on to achieve great things at the Department of Transportation. I, along with my Subcommittee staff, wish Amy all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I mistakenly missed the vote on rollcall No. 162: On passage of H.R. 1404, the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 125, On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 987. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 126: On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1217. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 127: On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1284. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO STUDENT ATHLETES

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about some great achievements by student athletes in my district.

This past weekend Jamesville-DeWitt boys' varsity basketball team, which is my hometown, defeated Peekskill 77-75 in Overtime to win the Class A Boys' High School basketball championship.

The 25th congressional district winning ways continue at the New York Public schools championship with Bishop Kearney boys' varsity basketball team defeating Seton Catholic 65-48 to bring home the Class B Boy's High School basketball championship.

And the women of the 25th district got into the act when Newark girls varsity basketball team defeated Albertus Magnus 75-68 to take the Girls' Class A basketball championship.

Coach McKenney at Jamesville-Dewitt, Coach Boon at Bishop Kerney, Coach Kirnie at Newark and all of the student athletes are to be congratulated on these great achievements. I wish them all the best of luck as they move on to the New York State Federation Championships this weekend in Glens Falls.

Last, but certainly not least, I am proud to say that the Syracuse Orange men's basketball team won both of their NCAA tournament games this past weekend and have advanced to the sweet 16 this weekend. To coach Boenheim, and all of the players, I can't tell you how many people come up to me in halls of Congress to talk about how great you are. I will be cheering for you as you compete for a berth in the Final Four.

All of the student athletes that compete bring my district and the whole United States great pride and I applaud you on your efforts. Keep up the good work, and Go Orange!

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK RAFFLO

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues today the recent passing of Frank Rafflo of Leesburg, Virginia. He died on March 15, 2009, at the age of 89.

A long-time resident of Leesburg, Frank was a giant in his community who made public service a priority. He was a member of the town council for several years, as well as serving as mayor for two years. During his tenure as mayor, Frank oversaw the effort to build an airport in Leesburg. He was also a member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors for 14 years, including a year as chairman in 1985.

Frank served his community in unelected positions as well. He was one of the charter members of the Leesburg Kiwanis Club in 1957. The club holds the annual Kiwanis Halloween Parade that local children look forward to year after year. With his wife Frances, Frank championed parks and outdoor spaces in Loudoun County. They were influential in the creation of the W&OD Trail in Leesburg, and a park along the trail was subsequently dedicated for them. In more recent years, Frank wrote a column in the local paper, the Leesburg Today.

The town of Leesburg and the Commonwealth of Virginia will greatly miss the service of their friend, Frank Rafflo. His legacy will not soon be forgotten.

I would like to share an in memoriam of Frank Rafflo that ran in the Leesburg Today on March 18, 2009:

[From the Leesburg Today, Mar. 18, 2009]

FRANK RAFFLO: IN MEMORIAM, 1919-2009

(By Margaret Morton)

Small in physical stature, but towering in intelligence, integrity and love of community, Frank Rafflo, who died Sunday at age 89, was one of the pantheon of legendary Loudoun leaders during the second half of the 20th century.

All this week, tributes poured in for a man whose breadth of interests was phenomenal. A generous dispenser of advice for others making their way in the world, Rafflo retained all his long life a curiosity into what made people and institutions tick.

Blessed with a sharp brain, with a penetrating eye for fiscal detail and a consuming interest in all that went on around him, Rafflo lived an extraordinary life in which he had a number of careers-businessman, journalist and columnist, author, radio commentator and local elected government representative.

In his later years, Rafflo's column, Just Being Frank, in Leesburg Today, in which he dispensed his particular brand of down-home wisdom, had a loyal following. Readers were drawn to his often whimsical but always knowledgeable observations on a variety of subjects, ranging from the quirks of human beings, government malfeasance, the price of coffee, hemlines going up or down, how to find good tomatoes or a good shovel, whether a sale price was a true sale or not, and so on. In addition, Rafflo wrote a number of books detailing Leesburg's and Loudoun's history, among the best known being Within The Iron Gate.

Serving on both the Leesburg Town Council and the Board of Supervisors, Rafflo's love

of both was remarkable. Director of the Loudoun Office of Transportation Services Terrie Laycock, who started work with county government in 1977 as an aide to board members, worked closely with Rafflo, who served on the county board from 1972 to 1986, including as chairman in 1985. "You never questioned that his motives were anything other than for the good of Loudoun County: No politics, no personal advancement, it was always from his perspective for what he felt was best for the county," she said.

He was a dedicated Democrat and an equally dedicated Kiwanian, a charter member of the Leesburg Kiwanis Club, and founder of the Kiwanis Halloween Parade in Leesburg.

Growing up in Leesburg, Rafflo attended Leesburg High School where he always was at, or near, the top of his class. That keen intellect led to his being accepted into the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, from which he graduated as a Phi Beta Kappa student.

As a businessman, Rafflo and his wife, Frances, operated a women's dress shop on South King Street, a characteristic partnership in all his endeavors that that lasted until Rafflo's death. Loudoun Museum Executive Director Karen Quanbeck remembered her days on The Fashion Board at Loudoun County High School.

Rafflo created the group, comprised of junior and senior girls who would model fashions from his store at charity fashion shows, typically on weekends, Quanbeck recalled. "It takes a lot to get teenage girls out of bed at 6 a.m. on weekends, and make it fun." She recalled Rafflo as "very jolly and very supportive of the girls on the board. He was always interested in us and what we were going to do with our lives."

A strong believer that local government was the most effective form of public service to be found, Rafflo served two terms on the Leesburg Town Council from 1949-1951 and 1953-1955, as well as serving as mayor from 1961-1963.

Whether or not people agreed with him, "they always knew where he stood," his son Alan said this week, recalling the tales of many battles that came home with his father during his years of public service.

Rafflo enjoyed a long working partnership with the late B. Powell Harrison, who, while never an elected official, shared many similar ideas about the future of Leesburg and the county. Harrison's widow, Agnes Harrison, recalled the long partnership between the two men, who worked together on many projects to better both the town and the county. Their offices were next door to each other, and, both being notable talkers, "they would meet on the street on the corner and discuss many, many things," she said. "If everyone who lived in Leesburg were as public minded as Frank Rafflo it would be an even better place than it is," she said.

Alan Rafflo similarly recalled his father talking to everybody he met on the street in his retirement. When once he asked him whom he was waving to, his father replied, "Oh, I wave to everybody."

Both Agnes Harrison and longtime friend Mac Brownell recalled the courage shown by both Rafflos in the face of family tragedy, having lost two of their children in car accidents. "They suffered serious sadness and disappointment, but they kept going. They were a brave couple," Harrison said.

"I always had great respect for Frank. I saw a side of him that so touching, that people didn't often see, particularly the way he spoke about children. He had a very tender heart," Brownell said.

Laycock also spoke of Rafflo's interest in those who were less fortunate, whether from a financial standpoint, or if they had physical or mental disabilities. "He was always